

Stennis program model for national workforce development initiative

As the new millennium approaches, research shows there is a shortage of qualified candidates to fill existing and anticipated positions in the remote sensing industry. On Aug. 31, NASA's Commercial Remote Sensing Program (CRSP) at Stennis Space Center, along with NASA's Education and University Affairs Office at Stennis, announced a national program designed to meet that challenge.

During the U.S. Department of Education's America Goes Back to School program held at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, David Brannon, CRSP program manager, announced the national roll out for the Workforce Development Education and Training (WDET) program.

The national plan is based on the successful approach demonstrated by the Mississippi model for WDET, currently being implemented by CRSP's Mississippi Space Commerce Initiative.

See CRSP, Page 8



NASA's Commercial Remote Sensing Program right, recently announced the national roll out Training program. Brannon, and NASA's Dr. city Affairs Office at Stennis, left, made a progr Richard Riley.



Capt. Tim McGee, executive officer, Naval Oceanographic Office, served as emcee during the kickoff of Stennis Space Center's 1999 Combined Federal Agencies Campaign for the United Way.

Stennis officially kicks off Federal Agencies Campaign

Each year, Stennis Space Center conducts a Combined Federal Agencies Campaign (CFC) for the United Way. The 1999 campaign officially started Sept. 1 with a ceremony in the Visitors Center auditorium.

Speakers included Stennis Space Center Director Roy Estess; Site-wide United Way Coordinator Joe Stewart of Cimmaron, Inc.; Rear Adm. Kenneth Barbor, Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command at Stennis; Hope Haven Director Terry Latham of Bay St. Louis; and Maj. Darrell Kingsberry of the Salvation Army.

Entertainment was provided by Rose Wallace of the Naval Oceanographic Office.

The goal for the 1999 CFC campaign is set at \$175,000 for the seven participating federal agencies.

I have been to more NASA Honor Awards ceremonies than I care to count. And, I've even been lucky enough to be recognized in the Visitors Center auditorium with my colleagues on one or two occasions. As much as I felt honored (and embarrassed) during those times, I don't believe I have ever enjoyed an awards ceremony as much as I did our most recent one.

I got to the event early and was able to get a back-row seat where I knew I wouldn't get caught "people watching." I could also see everyone in the auditorium without having to stretch my neck and look backward.

As the well-choreographed program progressed, it was evident we had discovered a new and talented emcee in Jean Rayhle. Each recipient had his or her own cheering section. The entire audience applauded all who went up on stage to receive awards, but it was also clear that friends, relatives and co-workers added their special applause and cheers.

I dare not use names in this commentary for fear of leaving someone out. A more complete story can be found elsewhere in the Lagniappe. It is tradition that NASA ceremonies feature the spouses sharing the moment with the recipient. But on this particular day, we were treated to an extra touch of "family." One employee brought his young daughter on stage with him to receive his award. He cradled the little girl in one arm and held his trophy with the other hand while posing for a picture. Two other award recipients were accompanied on stage by their sons, while at least one proud mother watched from the audience.

We were also fortunate for this ceremony to have a space flight notable participate in the festivities and help our center director Roy Estess present the awards. NASA's William F. Readdy, deputy associate administrator, Office of Space Flight, and a Space Shuttle astronaut, commented on the achievements of the recipients and praised the work of the center in its support of the shuttle program.

Readdy and Estess seemed to enjoy the program as much as the employees. They spent a lot of time shaking hands, exchanging small talk and making the recipients feel very special with an extra smile and a pat on the back.

The Stennis family was treated to a couple of inspirational films, tracing the accomplishments of NASA and the center through the last 40 years. A short history film was prepared especially for the event by one of the recipients who had a chance, for a change, to enjoy his own work.

Readdy paid the entire gathering a high compliment during his remarks when he said, "It makes me proud to be a part of this industry and to be with you all who are charting the course for the next century of space exploration." In a real sense, a great deal of the work today at Stennis is about doing just that.

After the official ceremonies were over, most everyone hung around in the lobby of the Visitors Center to socialize and have a piece of cake and a cup of punch. Estess and Readdy stayed until the end, shaking hands and continuing their congratulations. It was indeed a special day in our history and a genuine family day for the men and women of Stennis Space Center.

M.R.H.



closed Sept. 15 for major expansion and new exhibit construction. The grand re-opening is planned for spring 2000.

The completed project will offer 14,000 square feet of interactive exhibits representing NASA, the Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command and other Stennis agencies. When the Visitors Center reopens, guests will be able to operate the controls of a Space Shuttle cockpit; go on board a life-size module of the International Space Station or the Navy's battleship of the future; and experience a motion-simulated mission to Mars, as well as many other exciting exhibits.

Mary's Drive Inn of Biloxi, a highly successful restaurateur for the past 50 years, has been selected to operate the new space-themed restaurant in the expanded Visitors Center.

Since 1984, more than 1.6 million visitors from around the world have come to Stennis Space Center through its educational and community programs, tours, and special events at its Visitors Center.

"The Stennis Visitors Center has been a connection to the community and the world," said Linda Theobald, NASA Public Affairs specialist. "The tours of the test facilities, education programs and events have taught more about Stennis to a greater number of people than any other single entity. The expansion and new exhibits will serve to increase Stennis' ability to reach and inform the public."

New exhibits will include: **Swamp to Space** - a tribute to the families who relocated to make way for construction of the site, along with a history of Stennis and information on the environment and how it is being preserved; **Evolution of Space Flight** - a pictorial



VentureStar™ - the new commercial Remote Sensing helps in creating an understanding of the environment and terrain, without taking a trip. **General City** - learn more about Stennis and how they are used in various events; **Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command** - travel three-dimensional battleship of the future Weather Center.

Theobald said this will provide a wider forum for showing

Craig keynote speaker at third United Nations conference on space

Stennis Space Center Deputy Director Mark Craig recently delivered a keynote address to UNISPACE III, the third United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in Vienna, Austria. He was invited to speak because of his leadership in the initial Space Station international negotiations and in developing NASA's strategy for the human exploration and development of space. This conference, held about every 15 years, will lay the foundation for the Vienna Declaration, a document encouraging and defining increased worldwide space contributions to improve life on Earth.

See UNITED NATIONS, Page 9



Associate Administrator of NASA's Office of Space Operations, Mark Craig, stopped at Stennis Aug. 2 to keep abreast of activities at the various sites.

NASA presented its prestigious Honor Awards to 82 Stennis Space Center employees Aug. 20 in the Visitors Center auditorium.

This year’s awards went to William “Bud” Nail, who was given the NASA Exceptional Engineering Achievement Medal; Rebecca Dubuisson, who received an Exceptional Achievement Medal; Patrick Scheuermann, who received an Exceptional Service Medal; and B. Jeanne Kellar and Irma Cry, who both received Public Service Medals.

NASA Honor Awards are presented annually to a number of carefully selected individuals and groups, both government and non-government, who make outstanding contributions to the NASA mission at Stennis Space Center.

NASA’s William F. Readdy, deputy associate administrator of the Office of Space Flight, was guest speaker at the awards ceremony.

Prior to presenting medals and certificates to the awards recipients, Readdy said, “It makes me proud to be a part of this industry and to be with you all who are charting the course for the next century of space exploration. I applaud each and every one of you for your accomplishments.”

In his address, Stennis Space Center Director Roy Estess said, “This last year has been a particularly busy year. Our program is building to a crescendo. We have known for some time that we would reach this point.

You make this possible by your good work. The reputation that Stennis has for getting our job done with few people and few resources is well known. I appreciate each and every one of you.”

Exceptional Engineering Achievement Medal

The NASA Exceptional Engineering Achievement Medal is awarded for unusually significant engineering contributions toward achievement of the NASA mission. This award may be given for individual efforts or application of engineering principals/methods that have resulted in a contribution of fundamental importance in this field or have significantly enhanced understanding of this field.

Nail was recognized for his work on the E-1 Test Facility Control System which produced a more responsive, reliable and capable system than any previous system used for propulsion testing.

Exceptional Achievement Medal

The NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal is awarded for a significant, specific accomplishment or contribution clearly characterized by a substantial and significant improvement in operations, efficiency, service, financial savings, science, or technology that contributes to the mission of NASA.

Dubuisson , Stennis’ procurement officer, was cited for her work in the creation



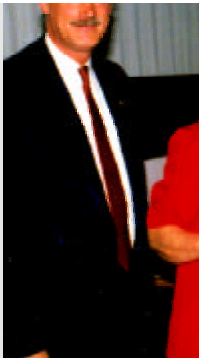
Pictured from left are NASA’s William F. Readdy, deputy associate administrator of the Office of Space Flight; William “Bud” Nail, recipient of the Exceptional Engineering Achievement Medal; his wife, Mary; and Stennis Space Center Director Roy Estess.



**Pictured from left a
ciate administrat
Procurement Offic
exceptional Achieve
Space Center Dire**



Pictured from left are NASA Administrator Dan Goldin; Patrick Scheuermann, recipient of a Exceptional Service Medal; and Associate Deputy Administrator Gen. John Dailey.



Pictured from left are Associate Administrator Gen. John Kellar, recipient of Stennis Space Center



Pictured from left are NASA's William F. Readdy, deputy associate administrator of the Office of Space Flight; Irma Cry, recipient of a Public Service Medal; her husband, George; and Stennis Space Center Director Roy Estess



A NASA Group Achievement Award was presented to the Commercial Remote Sensing Acquisition and Validation Team.



A NASA Group Achievement Award was presented to the Technology Transfer New Technology Reporting Team.



A Public Service Group Award was presented to the Stennis Space Center for work in supporting the Space Shuttle Program and function



Pictured from left are NASA’s William F. Readdy, deputy associate administrator of the Office of Space Flight; Rex Cooksey, recipient of a Certificate of Appreciation for contributions to the creation of a positive image for the center; his wife, Lane; and Stennis Space Center Director Roy Estess.



Pictured from left: associate administrator Spiering, recipient of the Patent Issuance Award, and Stennis Space Center Director Roy Estess.

Working together comes naturally to this y

Brad and Elizabeth Messer work for NASA’s Propulsion Test Directorate at Stennis Space Center. Since meeting in 1984 as aerospace engineering students at Mississippi State University in Starkville, the couple’s lives and careers have become intertwined.

“The key to our successful careers and 10-year marriage is mutual respect, as individuals and as professionals,” said Elizabeth. “. . . We’ve worked together most of our careers, except for the two years Brad worked for a small consulting firm in Huntsville, Ala.”

The couple’s first job together was as undergraduate students at Mississippi State’s Rascal Flight Research Laboratory where they helped design, build and test lightweight composite aircraft. This is where their fascination with research and development testing began.

The Messers’ NASA careers go back nearly a decade when they both worked at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville before coming to Stennis in December of 1996.

Elizabeth began her NASA career working on the design, development and testing of turbomachinery, testing, Space Shuttle Main Engine development engine, and conducting tests at the Oxygen Cold Flow Facility.

Since moving to Stennis, she has been involved with the activation of the B-2 test stand for testing of the X-34’s Fastrac engine and the Hybrid Propulsion



Elizabeth Messer



Brad Messer

Demonstration Program’s 250k hybrid rocket motor testing at the E-1 stand. Elizabeth’s first hot-fire test as a Stennis test conductor was the 250k hybrid rocket motor test on Aug. 13.

“That particular Friday the 13th was anything but bad luck—the test went great,” she said. “It’s a thrill seeing a test article and facility work as designed and know our test team made it happen.”

Brad’s NASA career began in the Component Mechanism branch at Marshall. His first Stennis job was working as the A-1 systems engineer for testing of the X-33 aerospike powerpack.

As systems engineer, Brad’s duties include serving as the integrator between the customers’ hardware and NASA’s test stands, test stand activation, and writing test requests and test plans.

“One of my favorite memories of test-

Alma Riojas Esparza, national executive director of the Federally Employed Women Inc., was the keynote speaker for the Second Annual Women's Equality Day program held Aug. 26 at Stennis Space Center in Bldg. 1100 Atrium.



Alma Riojas Esparza

Esparza, a San Antonio, Texas, native, who began her career as a teacher, noted the tremendous disparities between women and minorities in America's job market. She encouraged the approximate 150 representatives from NASA and its resident agencies to "look outside the box" when hiring.

"There is a tendency for us to look for people who are like us," Esparza said. "But, you can't let prejudices determine how you perceive other people. We are all equal regardless of race, gender, or ethnic background, and we need to provide opportunity for all Americans."

She added the hiring of women and minorities are a good business practice.

"It is not about quotas, and it isn't about preferences, its simply good business to do it," she said. "America's workplaces need that extra voice and that diversity."

Linda Pyfrom, director of Lockheed Martin's Information Systems Directorate, served as emcee for this year's luncheon.

Proceeds from this year's luncheon benefited Hope Haven, a children's shelter, in Bay St. Louis.

from

Stennis Space

In the July issue of Lagniappe, I wrote about Group's recommendations concerning emp tion and our use of the Kennedy Space Cer Evaluation System (GPES) to implement th stalled, and performance plans are being de

The power of GPES is its ability to flo plans. It is a communication tool to help u how each of us can help get there in whate

The foundation of GPES is the set of S agement retreats, we have developed goals do to be successful and to assure a robust

- Become the NASA leader in safety
- Lead NASA to become the agent o
- Enable the development of a \$10 bil
- Become the NASA leader in coasta
- Improve people's lives by sharing t from space exploration
- Enhance people, process and facilit future customer needs
- Significantly increase the types and resident organizations

By their nature, the goals are not easil tions. They set a direction against which w measure our progress. Please think about t what you can do in your job to help our ce achieve them.





Stennis Space Center Earth System Science Office research scientists (from left) Dr. Marco Giardino and Anne Peek use Ground Penetrating Radar to map a midden site.

Two Stennis Space Center Earth System Science Office scientists have helped the U.S. Navy and the University of West Florida’s (UWF) Archaeology Institute unearth the past without overturning a grain of sand.

Dr. Marco Giardino and Anne Peek, NASA research scientists, traveled to Panama City, Fla., this summer to help the Navy and UWF uncover prehistoric American Indian shell middens — dump sites — and historic sites.

Using a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), Giardino and Peek, along with Dr. Judith Bense, head of UWF’s archaeology department, and Dale Rhinehart, program manager for the U.S. Navy’s Coastal System Station, were able to locate and map a 10-acre shell midden-site on the naval base.

The naval station property contained nine midden sites used as refuse heaps by Native American tribes in the Florida area between 900 and 1200 A.D.

The work was the proof-of-concept project for a potential multi-year cooperative agreement between NASA and the Navy to use remote sensing technology in the discovery of archaeological sites on land and in water.

The project’s objective is the development of a pilot program to improve pro-

CRSP...

(continued from Page 1)

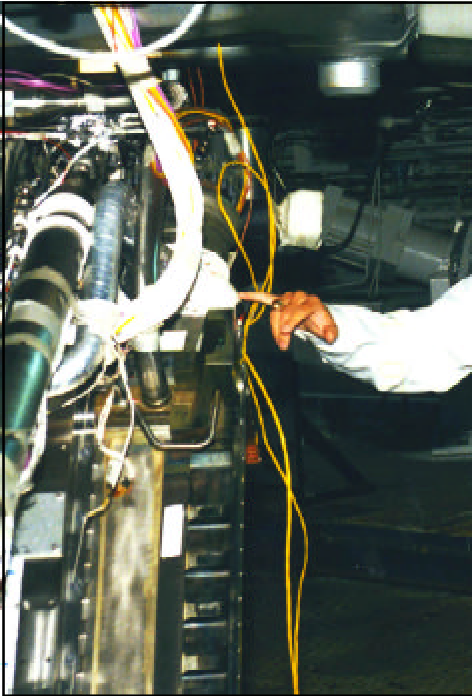
As NASA’s lead center for commercial remote sensing, Stennis introduced WDET in Mississippi two years ago. WDET has been given the task of ensuring that a trained work force will be available to populate the rapidly growing remote sensing industry.

The Mississippi model and the state Department of Education have launched a pilot program, which, when fully implemented, will bring remote sensing technology to every Mississippi student.

This program has been the focus of national attention, bringing education officials from around the nation to Mississippi to observe the schools involved.

The national implementation plan includes a three-part strategy: being customer driven, utilizing the existing infrastructure and creating systemic change.

Upon completion, the national plan will establish the United States as the world leader in the remote sensing industry.



NASA’s Steve Nunez, X-33 project manager, and others will bring a team of experts to NASA’s Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field Aug. 18 for tours and briefings.



Winners in the 1999 NASA Employee Appreciation Picnic volleyball competition were front row from left, Doug McNair, Pat Ryan, Toni Watkins, and Dale McCarty. Back row, Diane Sims, Mark McCalman, Sharlene Dimak and Sallie Bilbo.

HONORS...

(continued from Page 4)

NASA Group Achievement Awards

NASA Group Achievement Awards are given to a non-government group in recognition of outstanding accomplishments which have contributed substantially to the NASA mission.

The Commercial Remote Sensing Program Scientific Data Buy Acquisition and Validation Team received its award for its procurement of Earth science data necessary to meet NASA's science needs from the commercial sector.

Team members included: NASA - Rebecca Dubuisson, Linda Carr Freeman, Jeffrey Jenner, Frederick Policelli, Nancy Porter, Linda Slade, Kern Witcher and Richard Lightfoot; Lockheed Martin Stennis Operations - Miriam Allen, Chang-Yong-Cao, Muna Eltom, Rose Fletcher, John Foster, Philip Grieve, Kent Hilbert, Conrad Johnson, Jeff LaDouce, Wilmuth Lucas, James Lucas, Kimberly Macey, Julia Belle McCann, Rodney McKellip, Clemmie McQueen, Mohamed Mohamed, Dan Olive, Daryoush Razi, Ruby Robinson-Stubbs, Robert Ryan, Richard Sellers, Joseph Spruce, Steve Tate,

Gregory Terrie, Marcia Wise, Stan Woolley, You Risa Wu; and DataStar - Gregory Jones, Carolyn Owen, Laura Pair, William Smith and Joseph Sonnier.

The Technology Transfer New Technology Reporting Team was honored for its significant accomplishment for establishing methods of capturing technology for reporting.

Team members included: NASA - Kristen Riley and Judith Cook; Lockheed Martin Stennis Operations - Robert Batiste, Jeffrey Eberhart, John Lansaw, and Denise Maynard; and University of Southern Mississippi - Staci Kramer and Juana Kramer.

Public Service Group Achievement Award

The Stennis Space Center Quality of Workplace Team was honored for their outstanding efforts in support of Stennis activities and efficient day-to-day operations.

Team members included: Mary Bley, Edolia Barros, Freida Dobson, Beth McGregor, Abenna Jones, Don Wilson, Bill Humphries, Sharon Blount, Phillip Noble, Mary Heisner, Scott Burks, David Parker, and Alyce Moran.

and use of flammable liquids

Autumn is a time when the use of gasoline becomes more frequent for lawn care and recreational type equipment.

Here are some safety procedures that will make the season a safer and more enjoyable one if flammable liquids are used properly.

Safe storage and use of flammable liquids

- Flammable liquids should always be kept in vented and labeled containers for the liquids being stored.
- Never use glass or plastic containers for gasoline.
- Keep flammable liquids to the minimum amount necessary.
- Store flammable liquids in an outside storage area. Never keep flammable liquids inside the home.
- Never store flammable liquids near an open flame or any type of ignition source.
- Never smoke around flammable liquids.
- Never fill a container completely; allow room for expansion, and keep vent closed.
- Never refuel a hot lawn mower; allow the engine to cool before refilling.
- Never use gasoline as a cleaning agent.
- Always have proper fire extinguishers on hand.

■ A blood drive, conducted by The Blood Center from New Orleans, will be held at the NASA Conference Center, Bldg. 1100, Sept. 28 and 29, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., each day. For more information, contact Elizabeth Valenti at Ext. 1468

■ The Stennis Fall Family Picnic will be held Saturday, Oct. 16, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at McLeod State Park.

Events will include rides, spacewalks, dunking booth, maze, clowns, face painting, bands (Boley Creek & Alley Cats), pony rides, petting zoo and train.

■ Stennis will celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15 through Oct. 15. An exhibit will be on display in front of the cafeteria lobby.

■ Do you have a suggestion, comment, better idea for improvements? Do you know of a quality system non-conformance and want to submit a corrective action request (CAR)? Maybe you know how we can prevent a problem from occurring. Bright Ideas is your one source for submitting comments, ideas, suggestions. It's easy to use. Go to the Stennis Space Center Intranet Page, and click on Bright Ideas in the Message of the Day.

LAGNIAPPE

Lagniappe is published monthly by the John C. Stennis Space Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Roy Estess is the center director, Myron Webb is the public affairs officer, and Lanee Cooksey is the news chief. Comments and suggestions should be forwarded to the Lagniappe Office, Building 1200, Room 208, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529, or call (228) 688-3585.

EDITOR: Betty Ruth Hawkins

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Robert Collins Mary Mabins
Courtney Thomas

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Mike Badon Charles Jones

ARTIST: Douglass Mayberry



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

John C. Stennis Space Center
Stennis Space Center, MS 39529

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300